

3 comprising measuring the phosphate rearrangement rate in the course of preparing the polynucleotide or salt thereof.

**Remarks**

Applicants request favorable reconsideration in view of the herewith presented amendment and remarks.

**Claim Objections**

Applicants thank the Examiner for his careful attention to detail with respect to the proper numbering of the claims in this application.

**Election/Restriction**

Applicants disagree with the Examiner that the restriction requirement is proper and applicants again renew their traversal. Since the requirement has been made final, applicants intend to file a divisional application to the claim which have been withdrawn from consideration at an appropriate time.

**Claim Rejection – 35 USC § 112**

Claim 1, 2, 3, 7 to 20 and 23 to 26 have been rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner.

With all due respect applicants urge that the ordinary artisan having the benefit of the instant claims and supporting disclosure would be fully apprised of the scope and content of the instant claims. The recitation of "about" in the patent claims believed to be clear and would not confuse the ordinary artisan. Applicants, however, in order to forward this application to allowance, and to remove this technical objection have deleted